

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
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ORGANIZATION NOTES

GERMANY

THE editor of the Foreign Department is intensely interested in items that have appeared lately in the Holland nursing journal *Nosokomos* regarding Fräulein von Schlichting, the late superintendent of nurses at the great Hamburg State hospital, which has one of the two most modern training-schools in Germany. According to *Nosokomos*, Fräulein von Schlichting has undertaken to organize German nurses on modern and self-regulating lines, has given up her hospital position in order to devote herself more fully to this work, and is meeting with much opposition from the medical and institutional authorities, who have so far ruled nurses' entire lives with absolute despotism, and is also confronted with discouraging unreadiness on the part of nurses themselves. Fräulein von Schlichting is one of the most able and forceful women that our profession can show anywhere, and is honorary vice-president of the International Council of Nurses for Germany. If anyone could arouse German nurses to ask for more elastic conditions of life and less severe conditions of work, she is the one. Until we hear from her we shall feel more or less in the dark, and can only wait to know more.

ENGLAND

Nursing Notes for July has the following editorial remarks on State registration of nurses:

"A newly constituted society for the State registration of nurses, recently formed by the Matrons' Council, met at Morley Hall on May 30. Miss Louisa Stevenson, who was to have presided, was detained in Edinburgh by illness, and the chair was taken in her absence by Miss Isla Stewart. The object of the society is to promote a bill in Parliament to provide for the legal registration of trained nurses. How far the present chaotic condition with regard to nursing matters would be remedied by State registration is a matter on which nurses as well as doctors differ, but there is certainly a growing opinion that some organization or centralization with regard to nursing matters is required. . . . The Royal British Nurses' Association hoped to organize nurses and register them, but as it consists of medical men as well as nurses it is not surprising that the management of affairs is not in the hands of the nurses, and that not much progress has been made in organizing them. . . . Nurses in America afford us an object-lesson in the way they organize their profession. Perhaps we have the germ of a like organization in such bodies as the League of St. Bartholomew's, and that of St. John's House nurses. It has always seemed to us woful that there is no organization of a professional nature among those of one training-

school who have severed connection with their alma mater. Individual friendship, as long as the matron who trained them remains at the hospital, may, and often does, exist, but we have no direct means by which the opinions of those who are at work in the wider nursing world can be made known to the parent stem, whose new sprouts would often be benefited by a little knowledge on the part of the authorities of what is the trend of public opinion, what are the new needs of the profession, and what are the developments taking place in a larger world than is bounded by the four walls of the beloved old training-school."

ITEMS

NURSES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—The District Nursing Societies of Birmingham and Liverpool have for several years given object-lessons of what a trained nurse can do in the public schools. In Birmingham, about two years ago, on the request of the head teacher of one of the public schools, the society agreed to send a nurse daily to the school to dress small cuts, wounds, etc. Besides dressing the simple cases she directs many children to a dispensary or writes a note to the mothers advising them to call in a physician. The work is so satisfactory that urgent appeals have come in from other schools for a nurse, but the Nursing Committee could not afford more than one nurse for this work unless the schools could pay for their services. This they have not yet been able to do, but it is hoped that before long some way may be provided by which at least six more schools may have the nurses' services.

In Liverpool similar work has been done for five years by the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, as this is considered a legitimate branch of district nursing work. *Nursing Notes* says:

"The work of these nurses having met with great success, arrangements were made by the council for carrying it on more systematically, by two nurses set apart for this purpose. During the last twelve months, though the work was only partially organized during the first three months, fourteen schools have been visited from once to three times a week, and over eighty thousand dressings were made. Of course, in the vast majority of cases the dressings were of an exceedingly simple character, but of their usefulness there can be no doubt. In some cases outbreaks of epidemics which might have been serious have been checked, and the teachers and managers of the schools have united in expressing their high appreciation of the value of the work done by the nurses. Perhaps the most striking recognition which this branch of the work has received was the circular issued by the Board of Education, in which they specially called the attention of all managers of schools to the importance of attending to the minor ailments of children, and specially commended the work being done by the district nurses in Liverpool."

MISS CATHERINE WOOD, of London, recently opened the new South Block of the Nurses' Hostel, of which she is manager and part owner, and visitors were invited to inspect the arrangements. This new block provides a large number of unfurnished rooms for the use of nurses who wish to furnish for themselves. The rent for these apartments varies from eight shillings to eleven shillings,—about two dollars to two dollars and seventy-five cents a week.